



IN REPLY REFER TO
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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Natchez Trace Parkway
2680 Natchez Trace Parkway
Tupelo, Mississippi 38804



DEC 09 2005

Mr. Donald Silawsky
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Petroleum Reserves (FE-47)
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20585-0301

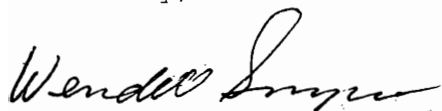
Dear Mr. Silawsky:

This is in response to your letter dated November 29, 2005, regarding the proposed expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The Department of Energy has determined the proposed pipeline associated with the Bruinsburg candidate site would cross the Natchez Trace Parkway at a location yet to be determined in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

Without a specific crossing location, impacts to Parkway resources and values cannot be determined. However, after a review of the proposal, Parkway staff offers some recommendations that may assist in your scoping efforts. Utility corridors cross the Parkway at numerous points in Claiborne County. Locating the proposed pipeline underground, and within one of these corridors, would minimize ground and vegetative disturbance and the likelihood that archeological resources would be encountered. Moreover, visual impacts to Parkway visitors would be negligible once the site was reseeded back to pre-disturbance conditions. Should the location of the proposed pipeline be in a location not within an existing utility right of way, or within a previously disturbed site, a greater level of impact would be expected. There would also be a greater potential for adverse effect on Parkway resources and values.

The National Park Service appreciates the opportunity to participate in this project of national and regional importance. Should you have any further requests or questions concerning these comments, please feel free to contact Natural Resource Specialist Bill Whitworth at [REDACTED], or by electronic mail at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,


Wendell A. Simpson
Superintendent